VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

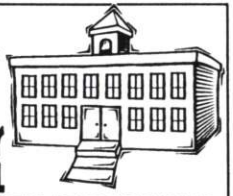
VOL. 3 NO. 9 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2000

LOCAL ELECTION NEWS ON PAGE 5.
PRESIDENTIAL NEWS? - IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER.

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE TO JOIN LAFAYETTE IN OFFERING SAME-SEX D.P. BENEFITS TO FACULTY AND STAFF. UNCONFIRMED SOURCES INDICATE MORAVIAN CONSIDERING SIMILAR PLAN.

WILL CEDAR CREST AND LEHIGH FOLLOW SUIT? WE ASKED THEM... SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 7.

THE FIRST GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE IN A LEHIGH VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL BEGAN THIS MONTH AT LIBERTY H.S.!



-READ AN ARTICLE IN NEXT MONTH'S VFP BY THE STUDENT WHO STARTED IT.

ASC'S RED RIBBON RESTURANTS NOV. 18

AIDS Service Center's Red Ribbon Restaurant project is set for November 18. Dine at one of the participating restaurants and it will donate $1 to ASC for each entree served. See a partial list of participating restaurants on page 6.

FACT SNOWBALL SET FOR DEC 3

The 14th Annual FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together), Snowball will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 pm at the Allentown Hilton. Tickets are $55 and will include hors d'ouerves and full dinner. The Silent Auction will be 7-10pm, Kato+3 will provide dance music and Steve Ziminsky will be at the piano in the bar. Black Tie Optional. Cash bar. Call for reservations: 610-437-6433.

ACCO SOLSTICE CONCERT DECEMBER 21

ACCO (A Chorus Celebrating Women),will present the 8th annual Winter Solstice Concert, Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at the Baker Theatre, in the Trexler Pavilion at Muhlenberg College. The concert will also feature the music of the early music ensemble Cambiata. ACCO will perform music that celebrates Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, the traditions of Greece, Finland, Nigeria and other community rituals. ACCO will feature music that celebrates the female spirit as Goddess, Virgin, Mother, Warrior, and Creator. Before the concert, at 6pm, there will be an Artist's Circle wherein hand-made work will be offered for sale.Tickets are $12. For tickets or further information call 610-760-1759.

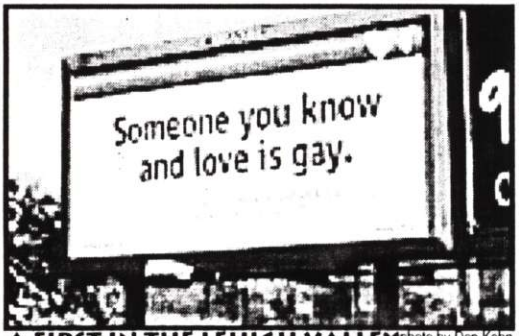
GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS "DECEMBER DELITES"

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus presents "December Delites" on Saturday, December 2nd at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA The concert starts at 8 PM, the Holiday Silent Auction starts at 7 pm. Let the LVGMC ease you into the holiday spirit with a concert that contains more than just the traditional seasonal music.Tickets are $12 and are available by calling 610-366-3320.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

HAVE YOU SEEN PFLAG'S BILLBOARD?

The dedication of the PFLAG billboard, which is on the Tilghman St. Bridge just before Lucent Technologies, was held in the Lucent Auditorium on Nov.13. There were 97 people at the event. The procession to the billboard included representatives from many organizations.



A FIRST IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY photo by Don Kohn

PLANET Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

LETTER TO AN EAGLE SCOUT

The following is from a letter written by a local VFP reader to a local teenaged Boy Scout who was about to become an Eagle Scout . It has been edited for length and to preserve anonymity.

Dear -------,

I am writing to you in response to the invitation I received from you earlier this week regarding your upcoming Eagle Court of Honor. After working for several years to satisfy all the requirements of this highest Scout honor, I am sure you and your family are very proud of this achievement and I wanted you to know that I am also aware and appreciative of your efforts to combine your Eagle requirements with helping in the church remodeling project as well. You did a good job and should be commended.

By the time you receive this letter, you will know that I will not be at the presentation / dinner and I wanted to share some of the underlying reasons for my absence. As you know, BSA (Boy Scouts of America) has been involved in a very highly publicized lawsuit over who may be admitted, and who may continue in the organization. Tens of thousands of dollars, which could have helped improve and expand programs were instead used to pay lawyers to defend the discriminatory practices of BSA.

Although the Supreme Court did rule in favor of the Boy Scouts, you must remember that just because something is 'legal' doesn't necessarily make it 'right.' Less than 150 years ago, slavery was still legal in this country - but no one now would agree it was right. Likewise, discrimination against Jews was not only legal, but encouraged by Nazi Germany.

And so, BSA is in the position of being able to legally discriminate, but people of conscience know it is not right for them to do so. As a public school teacher, I cannot discriminate among the students in my charge - I teach both sexes, all races and ethnic groups and all ability levels. Although it is usually too early to tell in grades 3-5, I'm sure a number of former students will identify themselves as something other than heterosexual.

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled on this issue, it is up to me to decide how to respond...This unfortunate position by BSA has caused me to take the following actions: I will not support BSA at any level in financial support or attendance at functions. I will discourage students from joining BSA programs and instead direct them to ones that do not discriminate, such as the Scouts of Canada, Scouting For All, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H and others. And I will question schools and churches that indirectly support this discrimination. What message does our church send to the wider community when we glorify and support such a group? The message sent to the boys in the programs is that discrimination against some people is OK - and since the church supports the group - the church also gives it tacit approval to such a position...

...You must realize this is a very sensitive issue for me and one in which I feel very strongly. During every baptism at our church, we promise our 'love, support and care' to *every* child. We owe them no less as they progress through adulthood. I encourage you to always be thinking about your identity, your life and how your actions reinforce that image of God within you. What would Jesus do? What will *you* do? Sincerely ----------.

GLOSS EVENTS SCHEDULE

The current schedule of the Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society is: Racquetball on Tuesdays at 8 and Saturdays at 9 both at ARC. The next GLOSS board game night will be November 18. Check the GLOSS website for details or call the hotline at: 610-434-2966.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, It's almost the end of the year and I should probably be thinking about taxes...but where do I start? **Signed Planet Quandary**

Dear Planet Q,

You need to focus on your tax situation today, as well as, in the future. Certainly, consider investing in your 401k or other company retirement plan through work. The money placed in the plan will be on a pre-tax basis, which will reduce your annual taxable income and many companies do match up to a certain percent of your contribution. The money will grow tax deferred until withdrawn.

No retirement options at work? Create your own pension by investing in traditional IRA's, Roth IRA's or Life Insurance policies, which have growth opportunities. Traditional IRA's may reduce taxable income, if you qualify. Even though Roth IRA's are not tax deductible, withdrawals are tax-free, providing certain requirements are met. Life insurance policies are an excellent way to shelter dollars from the IRS. Money can be withdrawn in the future, income tax free.

Lifetime Learning Credit: Receive a credit of up to $1,000 (20 percent of $5,000) for qualified expenses for any legal (not same-sex) family member in any type of post-secondary course, regardless of the amount t of course work taken. But the Lifetime Credit phases out with income levels reaching $40,000 for single filers.

Interest deduction on educational loans : You may be able to deduct up to $2,000 in student loan interest in the year 2000. Next year it will increase to $2500 even if you don't itemize deductions on your tax return.

As you can see, there are a wide range of deductions and credits for which you may be eligible. Even though your 2000 tax bill may not be a constant priority, be sure to save relevant receipts and set up a filing system for important documents. Seek the advice of a competent tax preparer. A knowledgeable financial consultant can work with your tax preparer to review available tax breaks and integrate them into your financial plan.

Denise McKelvey is a local financial advisor. Readers should recognize that this column is one opinion and may not apply to their financial situation.

THEATRE OUTLET SCHEDULE

Master Class in Acting Seminar , Mondays @ 7 pm Nov 6-Dec 11, Tuition $150 returning student; $159 new student. A 6-week adult Master Class in Acting, taught by Celeste Walker.

November 30-Dec 17: Frank McCourt's *The Irish...and how they got that way*. Join us for this delicious musical celebration and irreverent history of the Irish in America!

December 9: The premiere of *Pints, Pounds & Pilgrims*, Barlieb Wallace Production's new documentary of Theatre Outlet's Irish Island Odyssey...Travel with us to the Inishbofin Arts Festival in Galway, Ireland with *Crackskull Row!* Cocktails and buffet at 7pm, "Pints, Pounds & Pilgrims" film premiere at 8pm and Irish Music and entertainment & Theatre at 8:30 pm. Tickets $35 per person. Proceeds benefits *Across The Water*, Theatre Outlet's new Cultural Arts Exchange Program. Theatre Outlet is at 29 N 9th St. in downtown Allentown. For more info, ticket reservations: <theatreo@aol.com> or call us at 610-820-9270.

ENIGMA TO PERFORM

The Enigma Players will be producing two one-act plays by Tennessee Williams at the Theatre Outlet Jan 4,5,6,11,12,13. For more info contact the Enigma Players at 610-381-3989 or <www.enigmaplayers.com>.

HOT NEWS

B&N G&L BOOKCLUB

The Barnes and Noble Gay and Lesbian Bookclub will meet on Nov 21 to discuss the book "Trans-sister Radio" at 7:00 pm at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Whitehall. The club usually meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month, however, due to the holiday rush, there will be no meeting in December.

UUCLV HARVEST FESTIVAL REPORT

You might say, "The harvest has been reaped to great success!" The first ever UUCLV Harvest Fest got underway on October 21 with the arrival of the first attendees right at 11 o'clock. Food started to sell about ten minutes later, and it was off and running with a beautiful day, delicious eats, glorious music, delightful storytelling, lively dancing in the streets (literally!), quick-selling home-baked desserts, cider, soda, beer, UU books, social awareness booths, and crafts.

By any measure, the festival appears to have been met with a resounding "yes" from the community and the church. The four chief goals --to raise money from the community, to raise UUCLV's local profile, to share the bounty of its resources as a church with the community, and to have fun, were well met.

OREGON VOTERS DEFEAT NO-PROMO-HOMO LAW

Oregon voters narrowly defeated the anti-gay referendum, dubbed the NoPromoHomo Law, which would have forbidden any positive mention of homosexuality in Oregon Schools. Activists had feared the law would have made it illegal to even mention or confirm that historical figures were gay or lesbian, or to counsel kids questioning their sexual orientation. But it lost- one for our side!

Unfortunately legislation to create a state-wide anti-bias law in Maine failed and two DOMA style laws in Nevada and Nebraska won. But, Nebraska's law will be challenged in the State's Supreme Court.

FERRON AT GODFREY'S

Godfrey Daniels, the not-for-profit member supported listening club at 7 East 4th St.,Bethlehem will present numerous performances this month including: Canadian singer-songwriter and true pioneer of women's music Ferron. Ferron has toured with the Indigo Girls, who claim her as one of their biggest influences. Saturday, Nov. 18, 8 pm. Tickets $13.50. Call 610-867-2390 for info.

IT WAS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY AT AIR PRODUCTS

Who knew? Committed, caring, inquisitive, responsive (yes, not just tolerant!), STRAIGHT, corporate employees in the Lehigh Valley! Believe it! That's what Air Products' GLEE (Gay and Lesbian Empowered Employees) members found at their information tables at Air Products on National Coming Out Day (October 11). Not only that, but these straight employees were clamoring for "Safe Space" magnets (pink triangle encircled in green) to put up in their offices to signify a place where GLBT employees would feel safe to self identify. The support from upper management was also evident as several vice presidents stopped by and applauded GLEE's courage! The lesson? Coming out IS possible even in what's perceived as conservative corporate America. Yes - even in the Lehigh Valley! And that is the spirit of National Coming Out Day - one by one, to let others know that someone they already admire, work with, laugh with, and respect, is gay!

HRC LAUNCHES WEBSITE FOR GLBT FAMILIES

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has launched HRC FamilyNet, (www.hrc.org/familynet <http://www.hrc.org/familynet>) a virtual online village for gay families. The comprehensive site will serve as a resource center about the broad range of issues facing millions of GLBT families. Issues HRC FamilyNet reports on include: adoption, senior's rights, legal documents, couples rights.

GMLV UPCOMING EVENTS

GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, unless otherwise noted. Snacks are served, a one dollar donation is requested.

Schedule: November 11: GMLV will present "Queer as Folk" Part I. December 9: "Queer as Folk" Part II. December 23: no meeting, January 13: TBA. January 27: GMLV will "Celebrate Freedom to Marry Day" with Bob Pileggi of the Lambda Legal and Education Fund. Bob works with Lambda Legal Defense to coordinate National Freedom to Marry Day and against the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policy. He will discuss the recent legal changes in Vermont and the Netherlands. This will be an open event, hosted by GMLV for the entire LV GLBT community.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE

A service is planned for Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church (32 S. 5th Street in Allentown) to commemorate World AIDS Day.. This ecumenical service is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Synod of Northeast Pennsylvania and many area faith communities are participating, including MCCLV. People are encouraged to bring to the service a photos or symbols of people who have been touched by HIV/AIDS. For more information or to participate, contact Linda Lobach at AIDS Outreach: 610-435-8424 or <aidsout@enter.net>.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

To women interested in joining others on Tuesday evenings to play basketball in a small gym in Bethlehem by the Westgate Mall: We have a great time playing, laughing, getting some exercise, fouling, and relieving stress. All abilities are welcome. Give us a call (610)262-2519 for more information. Hope to see you on the court.

MORE RAINBOW BOWLING!

There is now another bowling opportunity for the GLBT community. A group has started bowling weekly at Parkway Lanes (off Lehigh Street near the 309 interchange) at 8:00 pm on Thursdays. Please join us. Cost is $2.50 a game plus shoe rentals (if needed). For more information call Scott at 610-691-8303. Ask for the "Rainbow Group" when you arrive and the staff will direct you. The Mountainville Lanes Rainbow Bowling League will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 8:00 pm.

LVGMC WEBSITE

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus webmaster has made it easier to find the LVGMC on the world wide web. Point your web browser to <www.lvgmc.org> to find out where you can hear the LVGMC, how to purchase "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me" cd's and t-shirts and the latest news about the chorus.

AS IF PRODUCTIONS

Through A Lavender Lens: Gay and Lesbian Culture in the Lehigh Valley is scheduled to play at The Stonewall on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 8pm. If you haven't seen it, Morning Call reviewer Joanna Poncavage called it, "an unflinching portrait of an extended family that reflects the whole of humanity." The sequel, Lavender Lens 2: our Friends and Neighbors premiered Saturday, November 4 at Theatre Outlet to an SRO crowd. T-shirts and copies of both films are now available from As If Productions.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
As If Productions- Documentary Film Makers
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Tuesday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE-gay and lesbian empowered employees at Air Products
GLASS-at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm, 2nd fl. Lamberton Hall, 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS- Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com
MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, office-424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday fron 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386)or 882-2531
NEPATA-North East PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance
19 th St/ Civic Theatre - 610-432-8943
NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 / 740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219
Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - In July ... 215.790.1510.
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>,<www.pridelv.org>

NOVEMBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 ACCO RAA GLOSS	3 KS CIVIC THEATER	4 GLOSS WDIY LAVENDER LENS
5 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	6 INTEGRITY RAA T.O. Master Class	7 ELECTION DAY	8 RIGHTS WORKSHOP	9 ACCO RAA GLOSS NCC ANTI-HATE RALLY	10 KS	11 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
12 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	13 RAA PFLAG billboard	14 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	15 PFLAG READING	16 ACCO RAA GLOSS Bowling	17 KS	18 MCC Banquet WDIY RR GLOSS Resturant Ferron
19 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	20 GLORA RAA T.O.	21 Bowling GLOSS B&N BOOK CLUB LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	22 MCC Ecumenical Service	23 Thanksgiving	24 KS	25 WDIY GMLV GLOSS
26 MCC Advent WDIY NCFM UUCLV	27 RAA	28 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	29	30 ACCO RAA GLOSS Bowling		

DECEMBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ACCO at Banana Factory KS	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 ADVENT MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	4 RAA Labor Day	5 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	6 T.O. Master Class	7 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	8 KS	9 GMLV movie WDIY GLOSS
10 PFLAG MCC ADVENT WDIY NCFM UUCLV	11 RAA	12 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	13 Reading PFLAG	14 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	15 T.O. KS	16 T.O. WDIY GLOSS GAME NIGHT
17 MCC ADVENT WDIY NCFM UUCLV	18 RAA	19 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	20	21 ACCO Solstice Concert GLOSS RAA	22 ADVENT KS	23 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
24 Candlelight MCC Service WDIY NCFM UUCLV 31 GLORA	25	26 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	27	28 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	29 KS	30 WDIY GLOSS

JANUARY 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	3	4 RAA Bowling GLOSS	5 KS	6 WDIY GLOSS
7 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	8 RAA	9 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	10 Reading PFLAG	11 ACCO RAA Bowling GLOSS	12 KS	13 GMLV movie WDIY GLOSS
14 PFLAG MCC WDIY UUCLV	15 RAA	16 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	17	18 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	19 KS	20 GLOSS WDIY
21 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	22 RAA	23 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	24	25 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	26 KS	27 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
28 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	29 RAA	30 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	31			

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016 610- 821- 2955 renlv @ ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
SC- Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out - 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT @ VYH TEEN GROUP-EVERY TUESDAY
BOWLING- EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY
GLOSS RACQUETBALL TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
BINGO FOR FACT -T DIAMONZ- SUNDYAS
T.O. MASTER CLASS- NOV. 6 - DEC 11
GMLV - "QUEER AS FOLK" NOV 11
LAVENDER LENS 1 AT STONEWALL - NOV 12
PFLAG BILLBOARD DETICATION- NOV 13
READING PFLAG- NOV 15
MCCLV BANQUET
RED RIBBON RESTAURANT
FERRON AT GODFREY'S
GLOSS GAME NIGHT
GLORA POTLUCK
NOVEMBER 18
B&N G&L BOOKCLUB - NOV 21
MCCLV THANKSGIVING
ECUMENICAL SERVICE - NOV 22
MCCLV 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOV 26
T.O. THE IRISH AND HOW THEY GOT THAT WAY
NOV 30 - DEC 17
WORLD AIDS DAY
ACCO AT THE BANANA FACTORY
DECEMBER 1
GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT - NOV 2
MCCLV 2D SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GLORA ANNIVERSARY DINNER
FACT SNOWBALL
DECEMBER 3
T.O. PINTS, POUNDS AND PILGRIMS
GMLV 'QUEER AS FOLK PART 2'
DECEMBER 9
PFALG LV
MCCLV 3D SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10
ACCO SOLSTICE CONCERT - DEC 21
MCCLV CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DEC 24

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL TO CONFIRM. TO POST INFO CONTACT VFP - 610-432-5449 EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

GLORA

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown announces these upcoming social events: Nov 18: potluck at Michaels', Dec 3: GLORA's 11th Annual Anniversary-Holiday dinner at the Bower's Hotel (near Kutztown), 5pm, the deadline for deposit ($5) and meal choice is Tuesday Nov 21. Dec 31: New Year's Eve bash and sleep over at Donna's. Superbowl Sunday: The traditional Superbowl / Anti-Superbowl social at Steve and Robert's. For further information about these events or to receive the GLORA newsletter, write GLORA at GLORA PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA, 18105-1952 or email <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

MCC EVENTS

November 18: MCCLV's First Annual Banquet. November 22: Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service, Trinity United Church of Christ , - many participating churches. November 26: First Sunday of Advent. MCCLV's Advent Theme: "We're Expecting." December 1: World AIDS Day Ecumenical Service of Celebration and Remembrance, St. John's Lutheran Church (32 South Fifth Street, Allentown). 7:30 pm. December 3: Second Sunday of Advent. December 10: Third Sunday of Advent, Congregational Forum after service for members and friends to review MCCLV 2000 and look ahead to 2001. December 17: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Congregational Meeting after service. December 24: Christmas eve. 10 p.m. Candlelight Service

EXPRESS TIMES COVERS CU

After 24 years together Timothy Hare and Rev. Earl Ball made it legal in Vermont in October. The couple were joined by Rev. James I. Olsen, a United Church of Christ Minister in a UCC Church in Hartford, Vt. After the simple ceremony Rev. Olson played the wedding march on the church organ as the couple walked back down the aisle. The Easton Express Times covered the ceremony and Civil Union announcement in an article on October 29.

PA-GALA THANKS:

The Board of PA-GALA thanks volunteers Tracy Denton, Brenda Walsh, Donna Massere, Denise McKelvey, John Glew, Raphael Canizares, Varin Ayala, and Manuel Diaz for their massive voter registration drive. These volunteers registered hundreds of new voters. The Board also thanks Tracy Denton for spearheading the successful Lehigh Valley fundraising effort for the General Election Candidate Guide, and to Rev. Beth Goudy, John Glew, Dorothy Glew, Roberta Meek, Allyson Hamm, Steve Libby and Ann Daves for their assistance in the mailing.

CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Schmidt and Chuck Woodbury announce their civil union which took place in Battleboro Vt. on September 8, 2000. The Union was officiated by Justice of the Peace Ethel Brosnahan.

Tracy Denton and Brenda Welsh announce their civil union which took place in Battleboro, Vt. on October 20, 2000. The Union was officiated by Justice of the Peace Ethel Brosnahan.

CIVIL UNIONS WIN IN VT GOV RACE

Only one issue was the focus of the race for Governor in Vermont, "civil unions." In what may have been the most significant election regarding GLBT rights, activists and politicians recognized that civil unions could be doomed in other states if incumbent Governor Howard Dean (D), who signed the civil union legislation and supported it publicly, lost the race to anti-civil union candidate Ruth Dwyer (R). The race was further complicated by the pro-civil unions progressive candidate Anthony Pollina, who threatened to siphon off votes from the left. But Dean pulled just over 50% of the votes winning the race and avoiding a run-off. Pollina got about 10% leaving the anti-civil union candidate Dwyer with a mere 38%. It was a resounding confirmation that over 60% of Vermont voters are either pro-civil union or are at least not against a candidate who is supportive

LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Lehigh Valley GLBT community went to the polls and like the majority of voters in the US, voted for Gore and Lieberman. Our grassroots effort was extremely effective in the cities (A,B and E) where in many cases Gore pulled a two to one vote majority.

Unfortunately, Ed O'Brien (D) lost to Pat Toomey (R), but O'Brien took the cities and the ultimate margin was extremely close.

In the state representative races all three candidates endorsed by PA-GALA won by extremely large margins. For example, State Representative Jennifer Mann won her race by an astounding 4 to 1 majority of the votes.

This year 2000 election will be the benchmark proving PA-GALA's mantra - your vote is important. The presidential race will be won by a number of votes less than 15% of PA-GALA'S Lehigh Valley mailing list.

PRIDE BOARD ELECTIONS

Pride of the Lehigh Valley announces its newly elected Board and Officers: Allyson Hamm- President, Brenda Hoelman- Vice President, Tabatha Gartner- Treasurer, Tom Cormier- Secretary, and Board members: Elaine Scott, Bridgette, Ilse Stoll, John Early, and Terry Richline.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editors with questions about gay and lesbian issues.

Dear WTA, Do you make a living from publishing the Valley Free Press? **Signed Young Potential Publisher**

Dear Young Pub, Oddly enough, you are the second person who's asked us that in the last month. In a word, "What are you, nuts?" Wait, that's four words. There's no advertising, where would the money come from?

Actually, there are a one or two groups that pay for multiple issues for their organizations. That pays for about 25% of the yearly printing cost. And PA-GALA usually pays for the postage to mail to its own members.

But we have actually decided not to do advertising because it would be so time consuming, and not very profitable. Also we want to fit as many articles into the paper as possible (usually 35-40 per issue). Ads would get in the way (take a look at the PGN or the Morning Call sometime). If we could get a few more corporate groups to buy multiple subscriptions maybe we could break even someday. Until then, we like to think of it as a monthly art project. And it's fun, not unlike having your own billboard.

ASC RED RIBBON RESTAURANT LIST

American Restaurant @ Holiday Inn-Fogelsville, Augie's Hidden Valley Inn-Bangor, Belmont Inn-Bethlehem, Bethlehem Brew Works-Bethlehem, Blue Orchard Inn-Mertztown, Brick Tavern Inn-Quakertown, Bubba's Pot Belly Stove-Quakertown, Buckeye Tavern- Macungie, The Cafe-Bethlehem, Carte Blanche Catering-Bethlehem, Casa Mia Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant-Bethlehem, DIAMONZ-Bethlehem, Diana's Cafe-Center Valley, Dogstarr Cafe-Allentown, Federal Grill & Cigar Bar-Allentown, Glasbern-Fogelsville, Goosey Gander-Allentown, Granny McCarthy's Tea Room-Bethlehem, Gus's Crossroads Inn-Bethlehem, Hack's-Bethlehem, Hard Wok Buffet-Bethlehem, Heavenly Hedgehog Ice Cream Co.-Bethlehem, Inn of the Falcon-Bethlehem, J&R Smokehouse-Wind Gap, Jack Callaghan's Ale House-Allentown, LeDue-Macungie, Louie's Restaurant-Allentown, Manor House Inn-Center Valley, Meyers Restaurant-Quakertown, Mooselounge-Allentown, O'Hara's Restaurant Allentown, Old Brewery Tavern-Bethlehem, Olive Branch-Bethlehem, Oliver Shakewell's-Allentown, Oriental Gourmet-Bethlehem, Pip's Restaurant & Trophies Sports Saloon at the Hilton-Allentown, Ramada Inn-Whitehall, Raubsville Tavern-Easton, Riegelsville Inn-Riegelsville, Ritz Barbeque-Allentown, Savory Grille-Macungie, Saylors' Restaurant-Allentown, The Shanty-Allentown, Spring Valley Inn-Bethlehem, The Sun Inn-Bethlehem, Sunset Grille-Allentown, University Station at Comfort Suites-Bethlehem, Ye Olde Limeport Inn-Limeport.

ANOTHER VIEW
BY WILLIAM FETTERMAN

GAY MEN OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Things are beginning to change in the Valley--slowly, yes, but for the better--these last few years. When I came of age some twenty years ago, social activities and organizations outside of the bar scene were almost non-existent. I certainly don't recall any opportunities to meet other guys outside the bar scene. From time to time I write about some of the groups listed here in these pages. Some groups I've tried a few times just haven't clicked with me, but that's OK--that's just me, and my interests. I don't write about these groups because there's no need to send out any more negative energy into the world--God knows we have enough already! Not every group is for every individual.

Recently I've begun to attend a couple meetings of Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley "GMLV". A few weeks ago I met the group for pizza and bowling. It was relaxing, safe, and fun. Unlike the bar scene, it's good to be in a gay environment without the usual stress and tension associated with cruising. At GMLV we laughed, played, hung-out, and just had a "gay time." It's refreshing to see a wide age-range of men there. More recently I attended a movie night, where 38 gay men watched the romantic and erotic film, Leather Jacket Love Story.

Upcoming events include a two-part showing of the Brit-hit TV show Queer As Folk on November 11 and December 9; and a lecture by Bob Pileggi on January 27, 2001. Bob, who works for Lambda Legal Defense, has been active in the issue of same-sex marriage, and in fighting discrimination in the Boy Scouts of America.

The GMLV group is a resurrected success story. Another group, with the same name (and same meeting place) was in existence a few years ago, but it folded. For readers who may have tried that group 3 or 4 years ago and left dissatisfied, be assured that the current group is a different entity.

The current success of GMLV is due to Joe Canto, who started the group again a little over two years ago. Joe's ambitions are very simple and direct. GMLV is to provide a social outlet for gay men as an alternative to the bar scene. He makes a very conscious effort to get gay movies that we won't see anywhere else in the Valley. There are lectures every few months on issues important to the gay experience. And there are game nights or theater parties.

While much of the planning and direction of the group comes from Joe, he also is assisted by Anthony Young, who is responsible for the final coordination of events, and e-mailing information. Both men are helping to create true diversity within the local gay community, and for that I'm grateful.

GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., in Bethlehem. There are no dues, but an optional one dollar donation is suggested to cover expenses. If you are interested in attending, membership is open--just show up! The GMLV also welcomes volunteer help, financial support, or help in planning future events. For more information call 610-954-7775, or e-mail GMLV at <gaymenlv@hotmail.com>. Hope to see you there!

MCC BANQUET TO HONOR COMMUNITY

On November 18,2000, MCCLV invites you to attend its First Annual Appreciation Banquet. This is not your typical church covered dish dinner. It's being catered by Maison Blanc, one of Lehigh Valley's most prominent corporate and private caterers. There will be awards presented for those who have served MCCLV and there will be a special award called the "Spirit of Courage Award" for a select member of the Lehigh Valley Rainbow Community. The "Spirit of Courage" award is for the person in the Lehigh Valley who has actively championed the GLBT community with an enthusiastic spirit and hefty amount of courage. So, in celebration of all that we are and all that we do, please join us for dinner, followed by music and dancing. Saturday, November 18, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Cost $18.95 Deadline for purchasing banquet tickets is Sunday, November 5. Phone 610-954-7775 to make your reservation.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS AT THE COLLEGES

Yes It's true, I spoke directly with Ann Hochella, Vice President of Human Resources at Muhlenberg College. The plan to cover the same-sex domestic partners (DP) of faculty and staff is already in place and will begin to take effect on January 1, 2001. It will only cover same-sex partners, not opposite-sex partners. Muhlenberg's logic is simply that straight couples have the availability of legal marriage and married partners are covered.

Same-sex partners must fulfill certain criteria. They have to have been in the relationship for at least six months, and they have to demonstrate financial interdependence in at least three out of a possible five or six ways, like joint bank accounts, joint mortgages or leases, co-ownership of a car, or beneficiaries on wills. I asked about legal (Vermont) civil union and Ms. Hochella immediately said, "Yes that would certainly be accepted."

Muhlenberg says they know of at least one employee who will use the policy. While it is not exactly equal to the benefits a legally married person would get (for one thing, same-sex couples are taxed for benefits like this, while legally married couples are not) it is a very positive step. For one thing it means all Muhlenberg employees can now protect their families with guaranteed insurance policies, even if there is a preexisting condition.

It also means that the "community" of Lehigh Valley colleges is beginning to follow the national trend toward DP coverage. Lafayette College has been granting benefits to same-sex couples since July 1, 1998. And though Moravian has neither publicly confirmed or denied whether they will be offering DP benefits, there are several unconfirmed sources that indicate the possibility.

So I called Cedar Crest College to ask if they had any plan to offer same-sex DP benefits. I got bounced around to lots of offices, and after way too much of that, I finally just called the office of the president. I told them what I wanted to know, left my number and they said they'd get back to me. I was prepared to "not hold my breath."

Meanwhile I called Lehigh University. After lots of switching and voice mail (what is it with colleges, did they just fire all the secretaries and install recorded messages everywhere?). I finally got through to the Human Resources office, where I spoke to Human Resources Assistant Melissa Andrews. I told her I was from the Valley Free Press, a local community newspaper, and that, like Lafayette, Muhlenberg College was now going to offer domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners of faculty and staff. I told her Moravian also seems to be considering it. Then I asked if Lehigh had any plans to do so. Her somewhat curt answer was, "No, we don't offer them and we have no plans to!" I was a little surprised that an office assistant would make such a definitive answer to a newspaper, but she seemed to be really certain so I guess I'll take her word for it for now.

Then the phone rang and it was Michael Traupman, Director of College Relations, from Cedar Crest and he told me that they actually were considering it, but that the Board of Trustees would have to vote and that wouldn't be until around mid-spring. Since I had figured Cedar Crest wouldn't even call back, I have to chalk that up to a pretty positive answer.

Each time an institution adopts a policy, others follow. Soon, what was once unique, becomes the norm. If all the colleges offer DP benefits, the public schools won't be far behind. This seems like a big leap for Muhlenberg right now, but I think the rest of the colleges will fall in step within a year or two. And suddenly it will be unique to be the only college that doesn't offer DP benefits.

ARE GLBT YOUTH @ A PLACE THAT MEETS THEIR NEEDS?
BY TRISH SULLIVAN

Last year at this time there was a surge of excitement in the community surrounding the projected start of a new social youth group for high school aged gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and friends at Valley Youth House. Representatives from Equal!, PFLAG, MCCLV, UUCLV, PA-GALA, and the Valley Free Press met with representatives of Valley Youth House to discuss the need for a group for our GLBT youth and to make recommendations about the mission and objectives. The community came out financially to support the group as well. The Stonewall sponsored an event that generated $2200 in donations from members of our community and in matching funds from Air Products to help fund social events, including a dance, that the youth participating in the program at VYH had planned.

Throughout the year, the Valley Free Press has followed the development of GLBT @ VYH. We have received many questions and concerns from community members, including the GLBT youth at VYH, about the program and its response to the needs of GLBT youth. In particular were concerns regarding perceived changes in the direction of the group after the original staff left the program. The Editors of the VFP met this week with David Gilgoff, Ph.D. Executive Director of Valley Youth House, at his request, to discuss these concerns. He was joined by Patricia McGarry, VYH Senior Service Director and Robert Rousch, from VYH Development.

According to Dave Gilgoff, the mission of VYH is to provide support and counseling to troubled youth and their families. He stated that the focus of the GLBT @ VYH program is social but rather it follows a counseling model. The group is facilitated by two certified therapists. Social activities such as dances, field trips, etc. are not included in the program, nor can the youth attend community events under the banner, so to speak, of "GLBT @ VYH." The group usually serves around 7 to 10 young people, but has had attendance of up to 20. All clients are self-referred. VYH has no plan to expand the program objectives, nor the number of clients.

The conclusion that can be reached here is that VYH is providing a therapeutic group setting for GLBT youth within the parameters of VYH's mission to serve troubled youth. It is the only program in the greater Lehigh Valley that purports to serve the needs of troubled GLBT youth in a group setting. It is important that this group exists and we need to refer those youth who can best be served by this kind of environment to this program. But,.....

.....This program does not address the social needs of GLBT youth. Our GLBT youth do not have the sanctioned traditional clubs, dances, etc. enjoyed by heterosexual youth where there would be social networks, dating opportunities, and the ability to interact with successful out and proud gay and lesbians adult role models. So now, a group of concerned community members are in the process of developing a social youth program to be implemented (hopefully) by the beginning of the new year. Deja vu! We hope this group will more fully meet the needs that have been expressed by the youth of our community. See the next Valley Free Press for more information and progress on this important issue.

PFLAG EVENTS

Meeting schedule: November 15: Reading PFLAG meeting. December 10: Bethlehem PFLAG meeting. December 20: Reading PFLAG meeting. For info call the hotline: 610-967-5219.

The following officers and board members were elected at the October meeting held in Bethlehem: President: Don Kohn, Vice President Jim Palmquist, Treasurer: Helen Early, Secretary: Deb Nunes. Board of Directors: Melinda Kohn , Ilse Stoll, Carol Baron, Bob Hebrun, Yvonne Frey-Oppenheimer. There will be no PFLAG Newsletter or e-letter in December.

POP QUIZ

1.What lesbian poet wrote, "She had eyes and yellow shoes, she had everything to choose and she chose me" ?
A. Gertrude Stein B. Emily Dickinson
C. Edna Milay D. Audre Lorde

2. Who played the gay character "Brick" in the movie "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof?"
A. James Dean B. Orson Welles
C. Paul Newman D. Clifton Webb

3. When did the LV Metropolitan Community Church begin services in the Lehigh Valley?
A. 1984 B.1989 C.1991 D.1994

4.According to the "Service Members Legal Defense Network," how many millions did it cost tax payers for the firing of gays in the military in 1998?
A. 2 B. 8 C. 18 D. 29

5. How many years before the Stonewall riots was the assassination of Martin Luther King?
A. 1 B. 4 C. 6 D. 8

6. In the film Orlando, Quentin Crisp played what role?
A. Walt Disney B. Queen Elizabeth I
C. Virginia Woolf D. Oberon

7. How old was (lesbian) singer Janice Ian when she had her first hit single? A.12 B.14 C.16 D.18

8. Who played the gay character on the 70's TV show SOAP?
A. Billy Crystal B. Martin Short
C. John Davidson D. Tony Randall

9. The Alfred Hitchcock movie "Rope" is about the true story of two young gay men who killed a student and were part of a sensational court trial. They were:
A. Sacco and Venzetti B. Leopold and Lobe
C. Fine and Howard D. Julius & Arthur Rosenberg

10. Openly lesbian professional athletes Patty Sheehan and Muffin Spencer-Devlin play what sport?
A. Tennis B. Beach Volleyball C. Golf D. Billiards

1.A 2.C 3.A 4.D 5.A 6.B 7.B 8.A 9.B 10.C

TO GET A VALLEY FREE PRESS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY MONTH, BECOME A MEMBER OF PA-GALA. MAIL A CHECK FOR $20 TO: PA-GALA P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

AIDS OUTREACH

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTES

"...the people of Vermont, clearly don't believe what we believe."
Ruth Dwyer (R) anti- civil union candidate for governor of Vermont in her concession speech, explaining her loss to pro-civil-union candidate Howard Dean and her very low percentage of voter support.

DIAMONZ TO HOST BINGO EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT FACT.

AIDS OUTREACH SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROGRAM

The annual AIDS Outreach Christmas Angel program aims to provide gifts and food for HIV-affected families the agency serves. Here's how the program works: individuals or groups sign up to provide gifts, food certificates or both for an individual or family. AIDS Outreach provides the volunteer with details such as ages of children, number of family members, etc. The "Angel" buys gifts/food, tags them, and delivers them to AIDS Outreach. AIDS Outreach wraps the gifts and makes deliveries to families the weekend before Christmas. To become a Christmas Angel, contact Susan Corallo at AIDS Outreach at 610-435-8424.

Distelfink © 11/00
by Ruby Zebu

"BUMPER STICKERS"

Souvenirs of the year 2000.

A VOTE FOR NADAR IS A VOTE FOR BUSH

Gets the understatement award.

A VOTE FOR GORE IS A VOTE FOR BUCHANAN

In Palm Beach Anyway.

DON'T BLAME ME I VOTED FOR GORE...LIKE THE REST OF THE MAJORITY.

Mandate Schmandate...

Hey, we did the best we could. We aren't responsible for grassroots voting in Florida!

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.